

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH  
MONTH

## HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I proudly join my colleagues today calling attention to the grave disparities in minority health in our Nation. The research is clear: there is a health gap between races and ethnicities. There should be no more debate on whether this is a reality.

African Americans are more than twice as likely to have diabetes as Whites. Asian American men suffer from stomach cancer twice as often as non-Hispanic White men. Hispanic women are 2.2 times more likely to be diagnosed with cervical cancer than non-Hispanic White women. African American women are 36 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women. American Indians/Alaska Natives have diabetes rates that are nearly three times the national rate.

In addition to disparities in health outcomes, Hispanics and African Americans are least likely to be covered by insurance. Disturbingly, over 32 percent of Latinos are uninsured. Lack of insurance translates to lack of preventive care, lack of care for chronic conditions, and failure to attain screenings that could catch diseases and conditions at an early stage. Not only do these communities of color lack access to health care, but they face medical debt that could be paralyzing to their economic situation.

I am pleased that Congress is finally addressing racial and ethnic health disparities. Not only because there should be parity in health, but because the number of minorities is growing. It will be detrimental to the future of our Nation if we do not continue to support understanding and addressing how to best serve communities of color. Understanding health risk factors and how to effectively deliver health care to our minority population today will help us prepare to serve a majority of the population of tomorrow. In the end, we will all benefit.

While we work toward solving the national healthcare crisis, we cannot lose sight of racial and ethnic health disparities. The only way to solve our current dilemma is to use evidence-based research findings. I support funding research for further innovation. We already know some of what we must do to improve health outcomes for minority population. For instance, we need more minority health care providers who are culturally competent. We also need to address linguistic barriers.

April is National Minority Health Month. It is imperative that we have a productive and invigorating discussion on racial and ethnic health disparities. We need to make sure all communities of color can live healthier lives. As health care programs and policies are considered, let us not forget to include all aspects in the debate, including minority health. As a multicultural Nation, we should celebrate our diversity, not punish it.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES A.  
REEDS AND THE "MONUMENTS  
MEN" OF WORLD WAR II

## HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor SGT James A. Reeds and the "Monuments Men" of World War II, as Members of Congress from across the country prepare to celebrate our country's artistic legacy through hosting the Congressional Art Contest: A Voyage of Artistic Discovery. A native Kansas Citian, Sergeant Reeds was a hero to preserving our cultural heritage during World War II and I am pleased to honor him at the Fifth District's 2007 Congressional Art Contest.

Throughout our great Nation, my colleagues are preparing for their districts' art competitions. Aspiring high school artists will compete to send their masterpiece to our Nation's Capitol. Like previous generations of artists, these young creative students are developing their skills, while gaining respect for the great masters who came before them. These masters have blessed our world with artistic treasures that have been enjoyed by past generations and will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

During World War II, Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler had a plan to secure art from every region he occupied. As the Nazi regime conquered Europe, Hitler ordered covert reconnaissance missions to locate priceless works of art throughout each newly occupied region. These missions were all done as part of Hitler's plan to build the world's premier museum, the Fuehrer Museum, in his home town of Linz, Austria. Hitler was bitter that Vienna's schools of art would not accept him into their programs.

Throughout Europe, as nations anticipated invasion, they took drastic measures to hide their invaluable works of art. The resistance found various methods to conceal their artistic treasures. Works were hidden in caves, mines, castles, châteaux, and in some cases, the masterpieces, like the Mona Lisa, were constantly on the move from one safe location to another. Unfortunately, many pieces were taken, many destroyed, and thousands of pieces of art are still missing to this day.

During the war, a special unit was formed to protect the cultural treasures of Europe from Hitler's raid. Comprised of Allied soldiers, the unit was started by President Franklin D. Roosevelt under the War Department's Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives section. The group's charge was to find, catalogue, and return art to its rightful owners. They were christened the Monuments Men.

Today, Missouri's Fifth Congressional District is honored to have a "Monument Man," and a native, living in our midst. Born in Westport, SGT James A. Reeds attended college at the University of Iowa and planned to major in chemistry. During his sophomore year, Sergeant Reeds was drafted into the Army. After specialized training at Stanford, he was sent to France to serve as a chemical lab technician. One fateful day, Sergeant Reeds met CAPT Bancel LaFarge, who was an officer in the Monuments Men. Captain LaFarge needed someone who could speak German. Since Sergeant Reeds studied German and could

type, Captain LaFarge recruited Sergeant Reeds as a Monument Man. Now as part of that historical team, Sergeant Reeds documented the location of art officers in the field, transcribed notes made by art historians, noted the transfer of recovered art to warehouses, and documented the artworks' return to the rightful owner.

An ancient adage in war is that to the victor go the spoils and this includes its cultural works of art. However, it was the United States and the Allied forces that agreed that the works of art from defeated nations would be returned to their place of origin after the war. Thus, the rich culture for the countries of Europe was preserved. Originally, Americans were unfortunately paying a pittance for masterworks to send art that belonged to Germany home to be sold. In essence, Allied troops were doing exactly what the Germans had done. Consequently, the Monuments Men initiated and President Truman agreed to the Wiesbaden Manifesto which stated that all German art had to be returned, thereby preserving and protecting its place in history.

Upon his return, Sergeant Reeds returned to college on the GI bill for a degree in German at the University of Iowa. He then went on to receive a master's degree and later a doctorate in linguistics from the University of Michigan. Later, he returned to Kansas City and taught at University of Missouri—Kansas City for 21 years.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to SGT James A. Reeds and his fellow Monuments Men for their relentless efforts to preserve Europe's great artistic treasures. I urge my colleagues to please join me in expressing our appreciation to Sergeant Reeds and his fellow soldiers for their service to this great Nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HAITIAN-  
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

## HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 23, 2007*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Haitian-American Nurses Association of Florida (HANA) for its successful Scholarship and Awards Gala held at Miami's JW Marriott Hotel last Saturday, April 14, 2007. This Annual Gala evoked yet another opportunity for HANA members to renew their sense of purpose and mission to this noble organization.

Established in 1984 to pull together the aspirations and ideals of the many hardworking Haitian nurses, this Association's mission is to enhance its leadership and membership in a manner that represents the utmost commitment and integrity of the Haitian community. It has also reached out to students by offering scholarships to deserving individuals who will join their ranks in the near future.

I want to commend the exemplary efforts of its officers in providing much-needed assistance and moral support to the constituents of the 17th Congressional District in a manner that evokes both the individual and collective nobility and compassion of its membership.